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EQUALIZER PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENTS FOR BROADBAND WIRELESS APPLICATIONS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

5 This invention relates to a home base modem system in a wireless communication system that provides telephone, data and Internet connectivity to a plurality of users.

Description of Related Art

 Several systems are currently in place for connecting computer users to one another and to the Internet. For example, many companies such as Cisco Systems, provide data routers that route data from personal computers and
10 computer networks to the Internet along conventional twisted pair wires and fiber optic lines. These same systems are also used to connect separate offices together in a wide area data network.

 However, these systems suffer significant disadvantages because of the time and expense required to lay high capacity communications cables between each office. This process is time consuming and expensive. What is needed in the art is a high capacity system that provides data links between offices, but does not require expensive
15 communication cables to be installed.

 Many types of current wireless communication systems facilitate two-way communication between a plurality of subscriber radio stations or subscriber units (either fixed or portable) and a fixed network infrastructure. Exemplary systems include mobile cellular telephone systems, personal communication systems (PCS), and cordless telephones. The objective of these wireless communication systems is to provide communication channels on demand
20 between the subscriber units and the home base in order to connect the subscriber unit with the fixed network infrastructure (usually a wired-line system). Several types of multiple access systems currently exist for wirelessly transferring data between multiple sites. For example, wireless communication systems have typically used a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA), Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) or Frequency Division Multiple Access (FDMA) type system to facilitate the exchange of information between two users. These access schemes are well
25 known in the art.

 Often in these wireless communication systems a modem is used for modulating and demodulating the information that is exchanged between users. Inside the modem circuit an equalizer is employed to correct distortions either in the wireless channel or fix imperfections in the analog circuitry. A novel equalizer with enhancements to improve performance especially using higher order QAM modulation is described herein.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

 In one embodiment, the method comprises demodulating a data stream transmitted between remote sites and a home base using stored parameters for each remote site comprising receiving data from a current remote site at a home base, retrieving a parameter associated with a next remote site from a memory, storing the retrieved parameter for the next remote site in a first buffer, storing a second parameter associated with the current remote site into the

memory, determining the initial phase and gain values for the next remote site based on the retrieved parameter, receiving data from the next remote site at the home base, and demodulating the data received from the next remote site using the determined initial phase and gain values.

5 In one embodiment, the method comprises compensating for gain droop in a modem which stores equalizer coefficients across data bursts between a remote site and a home base comprising receiving channel data values from an equalizer, calculating the gain for the equalizer based on the received channel data values, and scaling the input to the equalizer to achieve a value of 1 based on the calculated gain.

10 In one embodiment, the method comprises minimizing errors caused by adapting equalizer coefficients for each data burst from a remote site to a home base comprising retrieving a first equalizer coefficient for a current remote site, demodulating a data burst from the current remote site, determining the S/N ratio for the received burst, determining the error rate from the demodulated burst, comparing the determined S/N ratio and error rate to defined thresholds, and updating the first equalizer coefficient based on the comparisons.

15 In one embodiment, the method comprises improving the convergence of an equalizer in a multi-modulation modem using a two part preamble comprising defining a first part of a preamble with a lower order section, wherein the lower order section is transmitted using QPSK modulation, defining a second part of the preamble with a higher order section, wherein the higher order section is transmitted using QAM 64 modulation, transmitting both the first and second parts of the preamble, receiving the transmitted preamble, and converging the equalizer based on the received preamble.

20 In one embodiment, the method comprises providing a soft reset to a modem comprising generating an interrupt to the modem, halting the modem interface, setting a reset bit, flushing a buffer, realigning the buffer, reprogramming the buffer, and restarting the interface.

25 In one embodiment, the method comprises determining an adaptation factor for an equalizer based on the expected modulation type of an incoming burst transmission comprising calculating channel characteristics and metrics for a first burst transmission from a remote site, comparing the channel characteristics and metrics, determining an expected modulation type for a second burst transmission from the remote site based on the comparison, selecting an adaptation factor based on the expected modulation type, and applying the selected adaptation factor to the second burst transmission.

30 In one embodiment, the method comprises correcting the phase shift caused by the storage of tap values after each incoming burst transmission comprising determining an angle of correction based on correlating the input and output of the equalizer and applying the determined angle of correction to the incoming signal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a modem.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a receiver module for the modem.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a Digital Equalization module from Figure 2.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of one embodiment of the gain droop compensation module shown in Figure 3.

FIG. 5 illustrates a comparison of 64QAM Error Histograms using a two-type preamble with 2000FT Cable.

FIG. 6 is a zoomed view of Figure 5.

FIG. 7 gives the BER and the probability of the first RS word using the two-type preamble and different cable
5 length.

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a tap update circuit from the digital equalization module shown in Figure 3.

FIG. 9 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a system for estimating the phase shift caused by the digital equalization module shown in Figure 3.

10 FIG. 10 is an illustration of one state of the digital equalization module shown in Figure 3.

FIG. 11 is an internal block diagram of a parameter storage module.

FIG. 12 is a signal flow diagram of the process performed by the parameter storage module in processing uplink bursts.

FIG. 13 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a Digital Equalization Parameter Storage and Recovery
15 system.

FIG. 14 is a flow chart illustrating the process performed by the error recovery module 968 shown in Figure 13.

Like reference numbers and designations in the various drawings indicate like elements.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

20 Throughout this description, the embodiment and examples shown should be considered as exemplars, rather than as limitations on the present invention.

As shown in Figure 1, one embodiment of a modem 100 includes a receiver module 102 and a transmitter module 104. The transmitter module 104 receives digital data from a communications processor (not shown) and converts the data to an appropriately modulated analog carrier signal, for example, quadrature amplitude modulation
25 (QAM) or quadrature phase shift keying modulation. The analog signal may or may not be up converted to a carrier frequency prior to transmission. The receiver module 102 demodulates an incoming modulated carrier signal and converts it back to its original digital form. A similar or identical modem may be used as the other end of a communication link.

One embodiment of the receiver module 102 is illustrated in Figure 2. The receiver module 102 includes a
30 conditioning circuit module 908, a digital equalization module 930, a digital phase-locked loop module 950, a decode/decryption module 959, a parameter storage memory module 933, an initial gain adjust module 920, an adaptive modulation module 980, a signal to noise ratio ("SNR") calculator 935, and an acquisition, tracking, and modulation control module 918.

One embodiment of the conditioning circuit module 908 includes an analog to digital converter 910, a digital quadrature mixer 912, a matched filter 914, a correlation timing recovery module 916, an automatic frequency control module 971, an automatic gain control module 970, a dual digital to analog converter 924, and a voltage controlled oscillator 922. The down-converted signal from the Intermediate Frequency (IF) is sampled by the digital to analog
5 converter 910 to produce a digital output that is provided to the digital quadrature mixer 912. In one embodiment, the digital quadrature mixer 912 splits the received signal into it's quadrature components and translates the signal, for example, from a 20MHz IF, to baseband.

The matched filter module 914 maximizes the signal to noise ratio by "matching" the frequency response of the receiver module 102 to the signal generated at the transmitter module 104. In one embodiment, the matched filter
10 module 914 also rejects adjacent and unwanted signals that could be generated by other transmitters in the system, or interfering spurs generated by imperfections in the analog circuitry.

Still referring to Figure 2, the filtered output from the matched filter 914 is then driven into the correlation timing recovery module 916.

The acquisition, tracking and modulation control module 918 provides control information, such as the
15 modulation type or format of data, for the received burst to the correlation timing recovery module 916. The acquisition, tracking and modulation control module 918 performs acquisition tracking and modulation control. Multiple data signals are fed to the acquisition, tracking and modulation control module 918 to control the high level operations of the receiver module 102.

In one embodiment, the correlation timing recovery module 916 aligns the symbol timing to the samples fed
20 to the digital equalization 930, and calculates the initial gain and phase offset so that the digital equalization 930 can quickly perform channel inversion and correct any residual distortion due to inaccuracies in the phase and timing estimations. In one embodiment, the correlation timing recovery module 916 calculates the sample timing error by performing correlation between the received preamble with a copy of the expected preamble. The output of the correlation timing recovery module 916 is fed to an interpolation circuit, which further refines the received sample
25 timing offset. After the interpolation filter of the correlated preamble sequence, an accurate calculation, for example, to 1/16 symbol time is fed to a polyphase filter which manipulates the received samples to correct for the timing. Even though the samples may be aligned to the correct timing, the constellation may be rotated relative to a phase of zero degrees. The correlation timing recovery module 916 will calculate this angle and feed it to the numerically controlled oscillator 952 so that the timing and phase are corrected enough for the digital equalization 930 to quickly fix any
30 further distortions.

In one embodiment, the correlation timing recovery module 916 calculates the received gain offset. The gain is adjusted once based on the detected energy in the preamble correlator. Gain is adjusted digitally by feeding a value to the initial gain adjust 920. The initial gain adjust 920 maps the received quadrature symbols to the proper level before they are equalized by the equalizer. The initial gain is calculated by the correlation timing recovery module 916.

The correlation timing recovery module 916 performs frequency acquisition and automatic frequency correction (AFC) in combination with AFC 971.

The modem 135 may be equipped with a process for providing soft resets. A reset signal, while the modem 135 is in transmit mode, may occur in several instances. For example, during uplink transmission, a software module may be too slow in sending data to the modem 135, as may occur if the data is modulated using quadrature amplitude modulation 64. In such a case, the limited data received by the modem 135 may cause an interrupt to be generated. The modem 135 then halts the transmit interface and sets a transmit-reset bit. The modem 135 then flushes, realigns, and reprograms the necessary buffers. Once this process is completed, the modem 135 restarts the transmit interface, completing the reset operation.

Similarly, a reset signal may occur while the modem 135 is in a receive mode. For example, the modem 135 may receive only bad cyclic redundancy check packets. In such a case, the modem 135 halts the receive interface and sets a receive-reset bit. The modem 135 then flushes and realigns the receive buffers and reprograms the necessary buffers. The modem 135 then restarts the receive interface, thus completing the reset operation.

One embodiment of the digital equalization module 930, illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, includes a gain droop compensation module 941, an adaptive filter module 932, a feed forward tap update module 934, a decision feedback module 936, a DFE adaptation module 938, and an EQ Error calculator module 940.

The gain droop compensation loop 941 is located between the output of the correlation timing recovery module 916 and the input of the digital equalization module 930. The gain droop compensation loop 941 accounts for any gain variations due to radio droop in an outdoor unit (not shown) forcing a gain factor which is a ratio to the calculated gain observed in the digital equalization module 930. In one embodiment, this gain ratio is kept to unity.

A detailed description of the gain droop compensation loop 941 is shown in Figure 4. The outputs of the digital equalization module 930, for example, taps 4 and 5, are multiplied by 0.625 and 1, respectively. In one embodiment, the values of taps 4 and 5 are received after every symbol. This value is then summed with the resulting value being subtracted from nominal '1'. In one embodiment, this final value is 253. An adaptation factor (μ in Figure 4), is then applied to this final value which is used to increment or decrement a gain constant similar to the adaptive filter 932 described in the digital equalization module 930. The gain constant multiplies the input signal value to provide a gain to the digital equalization module 930 to be '1'. A gain of '1' enhances the stability of the digital equalization module 930. In one embodiment, the gain constant is reset every burst wherein at the end of each burst, the digital equalization module 930 has a gain of '1.' In one embodiment where the digital equalization module 930 has a gain of '1', the gain estimation module 921 of the Correlation Timing Recovery module 916 assumes that the digital equalization module 930 starts with an initial gain of '1.'

The digital equalization module 930 corrects any signal impairments due to multipath reception or distortion caused by imperfections in the analog receiver circuits. In the modem, the transmitter module 104 sends a known training sequence before the burst so that the digital equalization module 930 can learn what the distortion is and undo

it before the data arrives. The length of time the digital equalization module 930 is allowed to observe the impairments must be balanced against the amount of bandwidth that is wasted sending the training sequences over the channel. The digital equalization module 930 decimates the received data from the correlation timing recovery module 916 into a one-sample-per-symbol complex signal.

5 Within the equalizer, the acquisition, tracking and modulation control module 918 ascertains the next remote site's address and its expected modulation type based on comparisons of channel characteristics and metrics. In one embodiment, a reed solomon decoder module 962, illustrated as a component of the decode/decryption module 959, and the SNR calculator 935 calculate these channel characteristics and metrics. Once calculated, the adaptive modulation algorithm 980 compares the calculated channel characteristics and metrics and provides the information to
10 the higher layers of the communication system. The higher layers then define what the expected modulation format is for the received burst from the next remote site. The higher layers convey these results to the acquisition, tracking and modulation control module 918. Depending on what modulation is expected, the digital equalizer uses different adaptation factors ('s) for each received burst. Selecting an adaptation factor that is optimized for the received modulation type improves the performance of the modem by increasing the probability that the parameters stored in
15 the parameter memory storage module 933 at the end of the processed burst will be valid.

Returning to Figure 3, the digital equalization module 930 is composed of two sections: a feed-forward section and a feedback section. The feed-forward section is composed of an adaptive filter 932 and a feed forward tap update module 934. In one embodiment, the feed forward tap update 934 adapts the coefficients for the feed-forward section of the digital equalization module 930 based on the Least Mean Squares (LMS) module. This is a
20 gradient descent-based feed forward tap update 934, which converges to a local minima by forcing the output of the adaptive filter 932 to a known state or a training sequence. The tap update formula for the gradient LMS module is given by:

$$W(k) = W(k-1) - \mu \nabla J$$

25 $W(k)$ is the value of the new coefficient. $W(k-1)$ is the value of the coefficient at the last instant in time. μ is the step-size variable, and ∇J is the complex gradient of the system. The gradient for each dimension (tap) C for time k is given by:

$$\nabla_{c_k} J = -2x(k-c)\epsilon^*(k)$$

30 The equation for the error of the equalizer at time k is given by:

$$\epsilon(k) = d(k) - W(k)^H X(k)$$

Where: ϵ = the error between the desired signal (training or decisions) and the filtered signal
complex (I and Q channels) signal X

- d = The desired signal from a training sequence or feedback decisions
 W = The complex vector of the filter taps
 X = The input signal.

The preambles not only are used for timing recovery but are also used to converge the digital equalization module 930. The preambles are chosen so that home bases in adjacent sectors do not interfere with one another and that close remote sites will not interfere with one another. There is a different Preamble for uplink, and a different preamble for downlink. There are four types of uplink preambles (1) Unscheduled registration bursts, (2) scheduled 16-QAM bursts, (3) scheduled QPSK bursts, and (4) scheduled 64-QAM bursts. The hardware is designed to detect which preamble is being transmitted and decode the burst using the correct preamble. The preamble for the higher orders are subdivided into a QPSK section, and a higher order section allowing faster convergence in the digital equalization module 930 which is critical in burst modem design and at the same time can be used for symbol timing recovery.

1) The preamble is a mixture of both End Points and Middle QAM-64 Points

2) The Preamble is chosen for Uplink and Downlink Differently so that Adjacent home bases will not detect each other as transmitting remote sites

Figure 5 illustrates a comparison of QAM-64 Error Histograms using a two-type preamble with 2000FT Cable. Figure 6 is a zoomed view of Figure 5. Figure 7 gives the BER and the probability of the first reed-solomon ("RS") word using the two-type preamble and different cable length. For example, if the digital equalization module 930 is pre compensate over 1000FT cable using Preamble type 2 we get the following results: BER of 5.81×10^{-4} and an RS Error Rate of 1.5×10^{-5} .

Figure 8 illustrates an embodiment of a feed forward tap update module 934 (illustrated in Figure 3). Upon initial acquisition, remote sites Reset, or remote sites register, the taps are reset such that the center tap is set to '1' and the other taps are reset to '0'. If the taps have been initialized and adapted in past history, the tap update circuit receives a stored coefficient from the medium access control processor. The taps are updated to their new value by converging with either a training sequence (preamble) or the decision feedback 936 data from the decision device 958. After remote site processing, the medium access control processor is responsible for storing the updated coefficients to a remote site database.

Preferably, the digital equalization module 930 coefficients are initialized to take advantage of the knowledge gained during the previous bursts. Initialization relieves some of the concerns related to the digital equalization module 930 convergence time. One approach is to initialize the taps with the values from the end of the previous burst. However, this results in the digital equalization module 930 possibly having adapted to correct a phase shift (e.g., one introduced by phase noise or frequency offset) during the previous burst. At the beginning of the new burst, the correlation timing recovery module 916 re-calculates the initial phase and sets the symbol rotator to properly rotate the signal. This calculation assumes that the digital equalization module 930 does not introduce any overall phase rotation.

A method for estimating the phase shift caused by the digital equalization module 930 and the mathematical basis will now be described.

Figure 9 illustrates a simplified block diagram of the system. For purposes of simplicity, the transmit and matched filters are assumed to have 2 samples per symbol. The odd samples of x are assumed to be zero (i.e., the pulse shape filter does the interpolation from 1 sample/symbol to 2 samples/symbol). The digital equalization module 930 is assumed to be T/2 spaced.

If the channel is assumed to have no intersymbol interference, and the cascade of the transmit and matched filters is assumed to create an ideal Nyquist filter, then the even values of y are simply phase-shifted versions of the transmitted symbols, x . This is true because the even values of h are zero (except for h_0). If the digital equalization module 930 is also assumed to do a decimation (as our implementation does), then the digital equalization module 930 outputs a value when the even values of y line up with the main tap. To determine the phase shift induced by the digital equalization module 930, the correlation between the input and output of the digital equalization module 930 at zero lag is desired. This is illustrated by the calculations described below.

The output of the expectation operator for each tap is calculated individually (denoted it as r_m):

$$\begin{aligned} r_2 &= E\{c_2 y_{k+2} \bar{y}_k\} \\ &= c_2 E\{x_{n+2} e^{j\theta} \bar{x}_n e^{-j\theta}\} \\ &= c_2 E\{x_{n+2} \bar{x}_n\} \end{aligned}$$

but transmit symbols (x) are uncorrelated, so

$$= c_2 0 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} r_1 &= E\{c_1 y_{k+1} \bar{y}_k\} \\ &= c_1 E\left\{e^{j\theta} \bar{x}_k e^{-j\theta} \sum_{m=-2N}^{2N} x_{k+1-m} h_m\right\} \\ &= c_1 E\{\dots + h_{-2} \bar{x}_k x_{k+3} + h_{-1} \bar{x}_k x_{k+2} + h_0 \bar{x}_k x_{k+1} + h_1 \bar{x}_k x_k + \dots\} \\ &= c_1 h_1 E\{|x_k|^2\} \\ r_0 &= E\{c_0 y_k \bar{y}_k\} \\ &= c_0 E\{x_k e^{j\theta} \bar{x}_k e^{-j\theta}\} \\ &= c_0 h_0 E\{|x_k|^2\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
r_{-1} &= E\{c_{-1}y_{k-1}\bar{y}_k\} \\
&= c_{-1}E\left\{e^{j\theta}\bar{x}_ke^{-j\theta}\sum_{m=-2N}^{2N}x_{k-1-m}h_m\right\} \\
&= c_{-1}E\{\dots + h_{-2}\bar{x}_kx_{k+1} + h_{-1}\bar{x}_kx_k + h_0\bar{x}_kx_{k-1} + h_1\bar{x}_kx_{k-2} + \dots\} \\
&= c_{-1}h_{-1}E\{|x_k|^2\}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
r_{-2} &= E\{c_{-2}y_{k-2}\bar{y}_k\} \\
&= c_{-2}E\{x_{n-2}e^{j\theta}\bar{x}_ne^{-j\theta}\} \\
&= c_{-2}E\{x_{n-2}\bar{x}_n\} \\
&= c_{-2}0 = 0
\end{aligned}$$

5

Summing all the contributors to the correlation, only those from the main tap and the two adjacent to the main tap are non-zero:

$$\begin{aligned}
r &= r_{-1} + r_0 + r_{+1} \\
&= E\{|x_k|^2\} \cdot (c_{-1}h_{-1} + c_0h_0 + c_1h_1)
\end{aligned}$$

10

Calculating for the angle of the correlation value:

$$\begin{aligned}
\phi_{eq} &= \text{angle}(c_{-1}h_{-1} + c_0h_0 + c_1h_1) \\
&\text{for raised cosine filter,} \\
&\text{with } \alpha \text{ of } 0.25 \\
\phi_{eq} &= \text{angle}(0.627c_{-1} + c_0 + 0.627c_1)
\end{aligned}$$

15

A Mathcad simulation has been used to check the results shown above. With no timing error, the module shown above has been verified to be accurate. Although timing error was not included in the analysis above, the Mathcad simulation has shown that with reasonable timing error (e.g., T/8), the errors in the method shown above are very small (< 0.3°).

One embodiment of the adaptation module 938 in the digital equalization module 930 (illustrated in Figures 2 and 3) uses a T/2 feed-forward filter, followed by a T-spaced decision feedback section. If the correct decisions are assumed to have been made, the adaptation module 938 can be illustrated as shown in Figure 10.

By calculating the correlation as described above with reference to Figure 9, the angle of the correlation is arrived at as follows:

$$\phi_{eq} = \text{angle}(c_0 h_0 + c_1 h_1)$$

for raised cosine filter,
with α of 0.25

$$\phi_{eq} = \text{angle}(c_0 + 0.627c_1)$$

If the channel has non-zero intersymbol interference, the above descriptions can be characterized as approximately true. Intersymbol interference will change the weighting factor for the two taps adjacent to the main tap, and the contribution of the other taps to the digital equalization module 930 phase shift becomes non-zero. Simulation results have shown that the adaptive module 938 described above is effective with all intermediate frequency filter models. Thus, since the magnitude of the intersymbol interference is typically small, it can be neglected.

As illustrated in Figure 2, the output of the digital equalization module 930 is fed to the digital phase-locked loop module 950. One embodiment of the digital phase-locked loop module 950 includes a numerically controlled oscillator 952, a loop filter module 954, a phase error module 956, and a decision device 958. The decision device 958 receives the signal from the digital equalization module 930 and maps each complex signal pair into a sliced constellation symbol.

The digital phase-locked loop 950 uses the input and output of the decision device 958 to continuously correct any phase error using hardware complex multipliers (or rotators) 953. The output of the decision device 958 is also fed back into the decision feedback module 936 of the digital equalization module 930, where it is used to adapt the equalizer coefficients.

Figure 2 illustrates a parameter storage module 933. The parameter storage module 933 contains channel characteristics, in the form of taps, corresponding to each remote site. In one embodiment, each remote site has different tap values, each of which corresponds to a recent communication parameter by the remote site. Since each remote site has different channel characteristic, each remote site's tap values must be stored and retrieved independently. The digital equalization module 930 receives, from the parameter storage module 933, the tap values corresponding to the remote site that is presently sending an uplink burst to the modem 135. Once received, the digital equalization module 930 sets the correct channel characteristics for the incoming burst from the remote site which helps the modem 135 perform by keeping estimates of the channel characteristics for each transmission from

each remote site. In one embodiment, the acquisition, tracking and modulation control module 918 generates an index of remote sites and their associated tap values to expedite their retrieval from the parameter storage module 933. After receiving a burst from one of the remote sites, the parameter storage module 933 updates the stored tap values for that remote site.

5 Figure 12 is a signal flow diagram of the process performed by the parameter storage module 933, illustrated in Figure 2, in processing uplink bursts after the correlation timing recovery module 916 but before the decision device module 958. The process stores and retrieves parameters to/from memory when processing bursts from different remote sites at the home base receiver module 102.

10 The process begins at a start state 2540. Next at a state 2542 the home base receiver retrieves a remote site number from the acquisition, tracking and modulation control 918. Next, at a state 2544, the parameter storage module 933 retrieves parameters for this (next) remote site, for example, the equalizer taps from the previous burst. Next, at a state 2546, the parameter storage module 933 retrieves parameters for this (next) remote site, for example, the attenuation levels. In one embodiment, these parameters are stored in a first temporary buffer. Flow proceeds to a state 2550 where the parameter storage module 933 waits until the current burst is completed. Flow continues to a
15 decision state 2552 where the process determines whether the current burst is completed. If the home base receiver is currently processing an uplink burst, the parameter storage module 933 waits until the current burst is finished. In one embodiment, the acquisition, tracking and modulation control module 918 informs the parameter storage module 933 that the current burst is finished. If the current burst is not completed, the process loops back to state 2550. Otherwise, if the current burst is completed, flow proceeds to a state 2554 where the retrieved parameters for the
20 current remote site are stored into a second temporary buffer.

 In one embodiment, the decision whether to store the parameters depends on the state of the processed error metrics calculated by the error recovery module 968. For example, if the error thresholds are not exceeded, the parameter storage module 933 stores the retrieved parameters. Next at a state 2556, the attenuation and EQ taps for the current remote site retrieved from the feed forward tap update 934 and DFE adaptive algorithm 938 are stored
25 into a second temporary buffer. Flow proceeds to a state 2558 where the parameters from the first temporary buffer for the next remote site burst are transferred to the feed forward tap update 934 and DFE adaptive algorithm 938 modules.

 Continuing to a state 2560, the modem 100 waits for the next remote site burst to arrive. Also at state 2560, the parameter storage module 933 writes the parameters from the second temporary buffer to the parameter
30 storage memory 933. Next at a decision state 2562, the correlation timing recovery module 916 sends a message to the modem processing blocks when the next remote site burst is present. If a burst is not present, flow loops back to state 2560 as discussed above. Otherwise, if the next remote site burst is present, the process continues to a state 2564 where the correlation timing recovery module 916 calculates the initial phase and gain of the burst. Next at a state 2566, the correlation timing recovery module 916 applies the gain and phase to the initial gain adjust module

920 and 952 respectfully. Next at a state 2568 the parameter storage memory 933 calculates the Equalizer phase offset from the retrieved EQ taps and then applies this offset to the numerically controlled oscillator 952. Next at a state 2570, the burst is ready to be processed by the receive chain of the home base receiver module 102. Flow then proceeds to an end state 2572. In one embodiment, this process is performed for each received uplink burst.

5 To increase the likelihood that the stored channel parameters, or taps, will be valid for an incoming burst, factors, such as, symbol timing, interpolator timing, end of a burst gain value, and any phase offset generated by the digital equalization module 930, may be optimized. In one embodiment, locking the symbol timing within 1/8 symbol, locking the timing interpolator, providing a nominal gain of '1' for the taps at the end of a burst, and compensating for any phase offset generated by the digital equalization module 930 at the beginning of the following burst are done to
10 increase the likelihood that an incoming burst will be recognized and found valid.

Figure 13 illustrates a Digital Equalization Parameter Storage and Recovery system. The Digital Equalization Parameter Storage and Recovery system includes the acquisition, tracking, and modulation control module 918, the digital equalization module 930, the parameter storage memory module 933, an error recovery module 968, the reed solomon decoder module 962, and the SNR calculator 935. In one embodiment, the SNR calculator 935 calculates the
15 mean square error between the received symbol and the expected optimal symbol. By accumulating and averaging these calculations, an accurate measurement of the noise or interference of the system is measured. For example, when the SNR is high, the system can operate at a high order of modulation, say QAM-64. If the SNR is Low, the system must operate at a more robust modulation scheme such as QPSK. The output of the SNR calculator 935 is fed to the DFE adaptive modulation algorithm 938, which based on particular SNRs will feed the acquisition, tracking and
20 modulation control module 918 to specify which modulation scheme is optimal for the current channel characteristics.

The reed solomon decoder module 962 calculates the number of errors in a stream of 300-bits to measure the decode error rate. At the end of a burst from a remote site, both of these calculated error values are then compared to threshold values by the error recovery module 968. If either of the calculated values exceed the threshold values, the error recovery module 968 does not update the stored channel parameters, or taps, in the parameter
25 storage memory 933 for that remote site. In one embodiment, the stored channel parameters in the parameter storage memory 933 are reset when the threshold is exceeded. In another embodiment, the stored channel parameters are replaced with zeros if the calculated values exceed the threshold values. If the threshold values are not exceeded, the new calculated channel parameters are stored in the parameter storage memory 933. These new channel parameters are available to the digital equalization module 930 to set the correct channel characteristics for the next incoming
30 burst from the remote site. Thus, the Digital Equalization Parameter Storage and Recovery system provides a recovery system should a catastrophic channel disruption occur.

Figure 14 illustrates the Digital Equalization Parameter Storage and Recovery process. The process begins at a start state 2900 and continues to a state 2902 where the set of stored channel parameters associated with the transmitting remote site is retrieved. Next, at a decision state 2904, a determination is made as to whether a burst

the remote site is being received. If a burst is not received, the process loops back to decision state 2904 until a burst is received. If a burst is received, the process moves to a state 2906 where the incoming burst is demodulated. At a next state 2908, the SNR calculator 935 calculates the noise of the demodulated signal. Continuing to a state 2910, the error in the decoded signal is calculated by the reed solomon decoder module 962. Next at a decision state 2912, if the received burst is not at an end, flow continues to state 2906 as discussed above. Returning to decision state 2912, if the received burst is at an end, flow continues to a decision state 2914 to determine if the calculated noise from state 2908 exceeds a threshold value. If the calculated noise exceeds the threshold value, the process proceeds to a state 2916 where the current channel characteristics are invalidated. Flow then ends at an end state 2918.

Returning to decision state 2914, if the calculated noise does not exceed the noise threshold, flow moves to a decision state 2920 to determine if the calculated error in the decode signal exceeds the decode error threshold. If the decode error exceeds the threshold, the process continues to state 2916 as described above. Otherwise, if the calculated error in the decode signal does not exceed the decode threshold, the process moves to a state 2922 where the channel characteristics for the remote site burst are stored in the parameter storage memory 933. Flow then proceeds to the end state 2918.

In downlink communication, the equalization and channel estimation is simpler than in uplink communication. In the downlink direction, immediately after the training sequence is sent, data follows in a QPSK-modulation format. In the uplink direction, on the other hand, a higher-order modulation immediately follows the training sequence, worst case being QAM-64 modulation. In the downlink direction, the probability of making a bit error due to the equalizer not fully undoing the signal impairments is low since the Euclidean distance of received symbols for a QPSK constellation is much greater than the Euclidean distance of symbols for a QAM-64 constellation.

Preambles are not only chosen to converge the digital equalization module 930, but also used for timing recovery. Preambles are chosen such that uplink communication and downlink communication do not interfere with each other. The preamble structure is split into two sections. For the downlink preamble and the uplink-unscheduled preambles, a QPSK portion is repeated twice so that when the received signal is correlated with the local copy, a low probability of preamble false detection will occur when trying to acquire the downlink or when demodulating an unscheduled uplink burst. The receiver module 102 correlator followed by an interpolator filter bank is used to recover the timing by comparing the energy.

In one embodiment, the above noted techniques are used in combination by the modem 100 to perform higher order modulation techniques, for example, QAM 64. These techniques include performing the initial phase calculation on the incoming burst, performing droop compensation, performing a phase calculation on the stored taps, and storing channel characteristics, or taps, after each burst. These techniques are further combined with a method of performing symbol clock synchronization as described in U.S. patent application 09/790,443, filed February 21, 2001 and entitled "SYNCHRONIZING CLOCKS ACROSS A COMMUNICATION LINK." The combination of these techniques enhances the operation of the modem 100 when performing QAM 64 modulation.

Aspects of the present invention have been disclosed in one or more exemplary embodiments. These embodiments are not to be construed as limiting, but rather as showing a way to practice the invention. The scope of the invention is defined by the claims which follow.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for operation of a modem system which demodulates data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for each remote site, the method comprising:

- receiving a data burst from a current remote site;
- determining a next remote site which will transmit a next data burst;
- determining attenuation levels and equalizer tap values for the next remote site;
- determining an equalizer phase error from the determined equalizer tap values for the next remote site;
- replacing attenuation levels and equalizer tap values for the current remote site with the determined attenuation levels and equalizer tap values for the next remote site in an equalizer once the burst from the current remote site is completed;
- storing the replaced attenuation levels and equalizer tap values for the current remote site for use with a subsequent burst from the current remote site;
- receiving the next burst from the next remote site;
- determining an initial phase and an initial gain for the received next burst from the next remote site;
- and
- demodulating the received next burst from the next remote site using the determined initial phase, initial gain, and equalizer phase error.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining attenuation levels and equalizer tap values for the next remote site is based on a previous burst from the next remote site.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising adjusting the replaced attenuation levels and equalizer tap values during receipt of the burst from the current remote site and storing the adjusted values.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein demodulating the received next burst from the next remote site comprises:

- applying the determined initial phase and the initial gain for the next remote site to an initial gain adjust module; and
- applying the determined equalizer phase error for the next remote site to a numerically controlled oscillator.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising generating an index of remote sites.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

- receiving equalizer tap values associated with the next burst from the next remote site;
- determining a gain constant for the equalizer based on the received equalizer tap values; and
- scaling the input signal of a subsequent burst from the next remote site to the equalizer to achieve a gain value of 1 based on the determined gain constant.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein scaling the input signal of the subsequent burst to the equalizer is performed by assigning a value to at least one of the equalizer tap values at the end of the next burst from the next remote site.
8. The method of Claim 6, further comprising compensating for gain variation by adjusting a center equalizer coefficient.
9. The method of Claim 6, further comprising storing at least one scaled equalizer tap value at the end of the next burst from the next remote site.
10. The method of Claim 7, wherein scaling is performed on all of the equalizer tap values.
11. The method of Claim 7, wherein scaling is performed on a center equalizer tap value at the end of the next burst from the next remote site.
12. The method of Claim 11, further comprising determining the gain for the equalizer from an angle of the center equalizer tap value.
13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the angle includes a sine value.
14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the angle includes a cosine value.
15. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining a noise value for the demodulated next burst from the next remote site;
 - determining an error value for the demodulated next burst from the next remote site;
 - if the determined noise value exceeds a threshold value, invalidating the attenuation levels and equalizer tap values;
 - if the determined error value exceeds a decode error threshold, invalidating the attenuation levels and equalizer tap values; and
 - storing the valid attenuation and equalizer tap values.
16. The method of Claim 15, wherein determining the noise value comprises determining a signal to noise ratio.
17. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a two part preamble at the start of the next burst from the next remote site, wherein a first part is modulated using a lower order technique and the second part is modulated using a higher order technique than used for the first part; and
 - driving the output of an adaptive filter in the equalizer to minimize errors associated with the demodulation of the next burst which follows the two part preamble.
18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the lower order technique is QPSK.
19. The method of Claim 17, wherein the higher order technique is QAM 64.
20. The method of Claim 17, wherein the higher order technique is QAM 16.

21. The method of Claim 17, wherein the first part and the second part of the preamble includes end points and middle QAM 64 points.
22. The method of Claim 17 wherein the received two part preamble is used for symbol timing recovery.
23. The method of Claim 17, wherein the errors associated with the demodulation of the next burst include a bit error rate and a reed solomon error rate.
24. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - generating an interrupt to the modem in response to a modem system error signal;
 - halting a modem interface once the modem system error occurs;
 - setting a reset bit once the modem is halted;
 - flushing a buffer once the reset bit is set;
 - realigning the buffer once the buffer is flushed;
 - reprogramming the buffer once the buffer is realigned; and
 - restarting the modem interface once the buffer is reprogrammed.
25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the reset bit is a transmit-reset bit.
26. The method of Claim 24, wherein the reset bit is a receive-reset bit.
27. The method of Claim 24, wherein the interrupt occurs during modem transmission.
28. The method of Claim 24, wherein the interrupt occurs during modem reception.
29. The method of Claim 24, wherein the interrupt is generated in response to the modem transmitting at a rate faster than the data is received by the modem.
30. The method of Claim 29, wherein the interrupt is generated in response to the modem receiving cyclic redundancy check packets.
31. The method of Claim 30, wherein the modem is transmitting using QAM 64.
32. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining an expected modulation type for the subsequent burst from the next remote site based on the determined initial phase and the initial gain for the next burst from the next remote site;
 - selecting an adaptation factor for the equalizer based on the expected modulation type; and
 - applying the selected adaptation factor to the subsequent burst such that the probability that the attenuation levels and tap values stored after demodulating the subsequent burst are correct is increased.
33. The method of Claim 32, wherein the expected modulation type is QPSK.
34. The method of Claim 32, wherein the expected modulation type is QAM 16.
35. The method of Claim 32, wherein the expected modulation type is QAM 64.
36. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - correlating the input and output of the equalizer for the next burst from the next remote site;

determining an angle of correction for the subsequent burst from the next remote site based on the correlation; and

shifting the subsequent burst by applying the determined angle of correction to the subsequent burst.

37. The method of Claim 36, wherein the angle of correction is determined using the equation $\theta_{eq} = \text{angle}(c_0 + 0.627c_1)$, wherein c_0 is the center tap value, and wherein c_1 is an adjacent tap value.

38. A method for operation of a modem system which demodulates data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for each remote site and compensates for gain droop in the modem transmitter, the method comprising:

receiving equalizer tap values associated with a burst from a next remote site;

determining a gain constant for an equalizer based on the received equalizer tap values; and

scaling the input signal of a next burst to the equalizer to achieve a gain value of 1 based on the determined gain constant.

39. The method of Claim 38, wherein scaling the input signal is performed by assigning a value to at least one equalizer coefficient at the end of the burst.

40. The method of Claim 38, further comprising storing at least one scaled equalizer coefficient value at the end of the burst.

41. The method of Claim 39, wherein scaling is performed on all of the equalizer coefficients.

42. The method of Claim 39, wherein scaling is performed on the center equalizer coefficient.

43. The method of Claim 42, further comprising determining the gain for the equalizer from the angle of the center equalizer coefficient at the end of the burst.

44. The method of Claim 43, wherein the calculated angle includes a sine value.

45. The method of Claim 43, wherein the calculated angle includes a cosine value.

46. The method of Claim 38, further comprising compensating for gain variation is performed by the center equalizer coefficient.

47. A modem system for demodulating data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for the remote sites, the system comprising:

an acquisition, tracking, and modulation control module configured to determine the expected sequence of bursts from a plurality of remote sites for a modem;

a correlation, timing recovery module in communication with the acquisition, tracking, and modulation control module and configured to determine when a burst from one of the plurality of remote sites is received by the modem;

a parameter memory module configured to store equalizer tap values associated with each of the plurality of remote sites identified by the acquisition, tracking, and modulation control module;

a feed forward tap update module configured to generate feed forward equalizer tap values based on the burst from one of the plurality of remote sites for storage in the parameter memory module;

a decision feedback equalization adaptive algorithm module configured to generate feedback equalizer tap values for storage in the parameter memory module;

a first temporary buffer configured to store attenuation levels and tap values recalled by the modem from the parameter storage memory for a next remote site; and

a second temporary buffer configured to store attenuation levels and tap values for a current remote site prior to storing the attenuation levels and tap values in the parameter memory module.

48. A modem system which demodulates data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for each remote site and compensates for gain droop in the modem transmitter, the system comprising:

an equalizer;

a phase calculator circuit configured to determine the gain of the equalizer for a demodulated data burst from a remote site; and

a processor in communication with the phase calculator and the equalizer, and configured to apply the determined gain of the equalizer to at least one equalizer coefficient.

49. A method for operation of a modem system which demodulates data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for each remote site and compensates for errors, the method comprising:

retrieving a stored channel parameter associated with a remote site;

demodulating an incoming burst from the remote site using the retrieved stored channel parameter;

determining a noise value for the demodulated burst;

determining an error value for the demodulated burst;

if the determined noise value exceeds a threshold value, invalidating the retrieved stored channel parameter;

if the determined error value exceeds a decode error threshold, invalidating the retrieved stored channel parameter; and

storing the valid channel parameter.

50. The method of Claim 49, wherein the method is implemented in a Time Division Duplex system.

51. A modem system which demodulates data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for each remote site and compensates for errors, the system comprising:

an acquisition, tracking, and modulation control module which determines the expected sequence of bursts from a plurality of remote sites;

a signal to noise (SNR) calculator configured to calculate a received symbol signal to noise ratio for a burst from a remote site;

a reed-solomon decoder module configured to calculate a received symbol decode error rate for the burst from the remote site;

an error recovery module in communication with the acquisition, tracking, and modulation control module and configured to compare the errors calculated by the SNR calculator and the reed-solomon decoder module for the burst from the remote site to threshold values; and

a parameter memory module in communication with the error recovery module and configured to store equalizer tap values associated with the remote site if the threshold values are not exceeded.

52. The system of Claim 51, wherein the system is implemented in a Time Division Duplex system.

53. A method for operation of a modem system which demodulates data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for each remote site and improves the convergence of the modem, the method comprising:

transmitting a first part of a preamble that is modulated using a lower order technique;

transmitting a second part of the preamble after transmitting the first part of the preamble, wherein the second part of the preamble is modulated using a higher order technique than the modulation technique used for the first part;

receiving the transmitted preamble at the modem; and

driving the output of an adaptive filter in communication with the modem to a known state based on the received preamble.

54. The method of Claim 53, wherein the lower order technique is QPSK.

55. The method of Claim 53, wherein the higher order technique is QAM 64.

56. The method of Claim 53, wherein the higher order technique is QAM 16.

57. The method of Claim 53, wherein the first part and the second part of the preamble includes end points and middle QAM 64 points.

58. The method of Claim 53, wherein the received preamble is used for symbol timing recovery.

59. The method of Claim 53, wherein the method is implemented in a Time Division Duplex system.

60. A modem system which demodulates data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for each remote site and improves the convergence of the modem, the system comprising:

a feed forward tap update module configured to generate equalizer tap values based on an initial gain and equalizer error determined from a two part preamble of a data burst; and

an adaptive filter in communication with the feed forward tap update module and configured to correct for distortion and interference in the received symbols of the burst using the generated equalizer tap values.

61. A method for operation of a modem system which demodulates data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for each remote site and an adaptation factor, the method comprising:

determining a gain value and a phase value for a first data burst from a remote site;
 comparing the gain value and phase value based on an adaptive modulation algorithm;
 determining an expected modulation type for a second data burst from the remote site based on the comparison;
 selecting an adaptation factor based on the expected modulation type; and
 applying the selected adaptation factor to the second data burst.

62. The method of Claim 61, wherein the expected modulation type is QPSK.

63. The method of Claim 61, wherein the expected modulation type is QAM 16.

64. The method of Claim 61, wherein the expected modulation type is QAM 64.

65. A modem system which demodulates data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for each remote site and an adaptation factor to improve the probability that the stored channel characteristics will be valid, the system comprising:

a reed solomon decoder configured to determine channel characteristics and metrics for a burst from a remote site;

a signal to noise ratio calculator module configured to determine channel characteristics and metrics for the burst from the remote site;

an adaptive modulation algorithm in communication with the reed solomon decoder and the signal to noise ratio calculator module and configured to compare the determined channel characteristics and metrics; and

an acquisition, tracking and modulation control module in communication with the adaptive modulation algorithm and configured to determine an adaptation factor for use with a next burst received from the remote site based on the comparison.

66. A method for operation of a modem system which demodulates data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for each remote site which corrects the phase shift caused by the storage of equalizer tap values, the method comprising:

correlating the input and output of an equalizer for a received data burst from a next remote site;

determining an angle of correction for an incoming data burst from the next remote site based on the correlation; and

shifting the incoming data burst by applying the determined angle of correction to the incoming data burst.

67. The method of Claim 66, further comprising determining the angle of correction using the equation $\theta_{eq} = \text{angle}(c_0 + 0.627c_1)$, wherein c_0 is the center tap value, and wherein c_1 is an adjacent tap value.

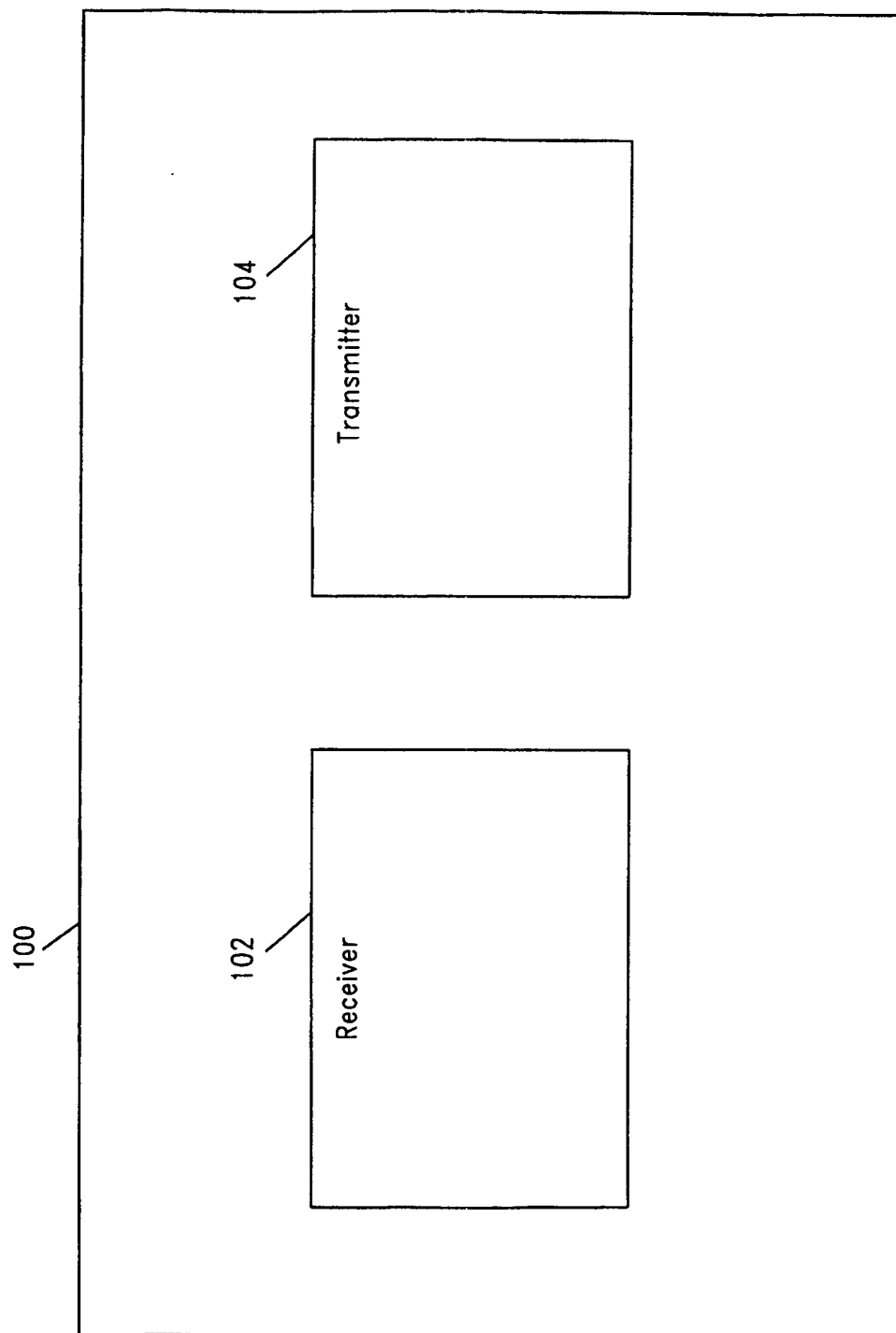
68. The method of Claim 67, wherein the method is implemented in a Time Division Duplex system.

69. A modem system which demodulates data bursts from a plurality of remote sites using stored channel parameters for each remote site and corrects for phase shift caused by the storage of equalizer taps, the system comprising:

a decision feedback equalizer adaptation module configured to determine an angle of correction for an incoming data burst from a next remote site; and

shifting the incoming data burst by applying the determined angle of correction to the incoming data burst.

FIG. 1



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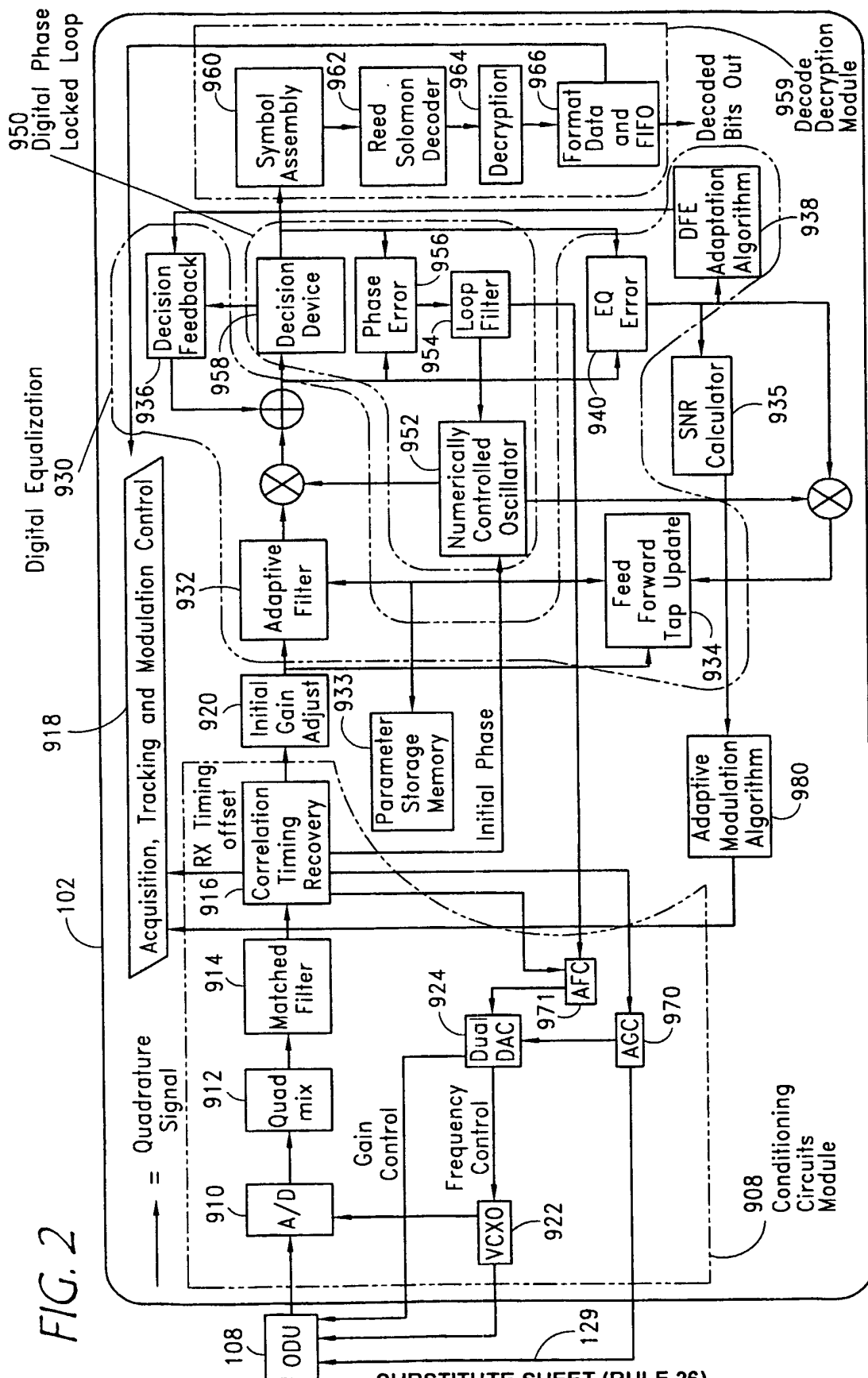


FIG. 3

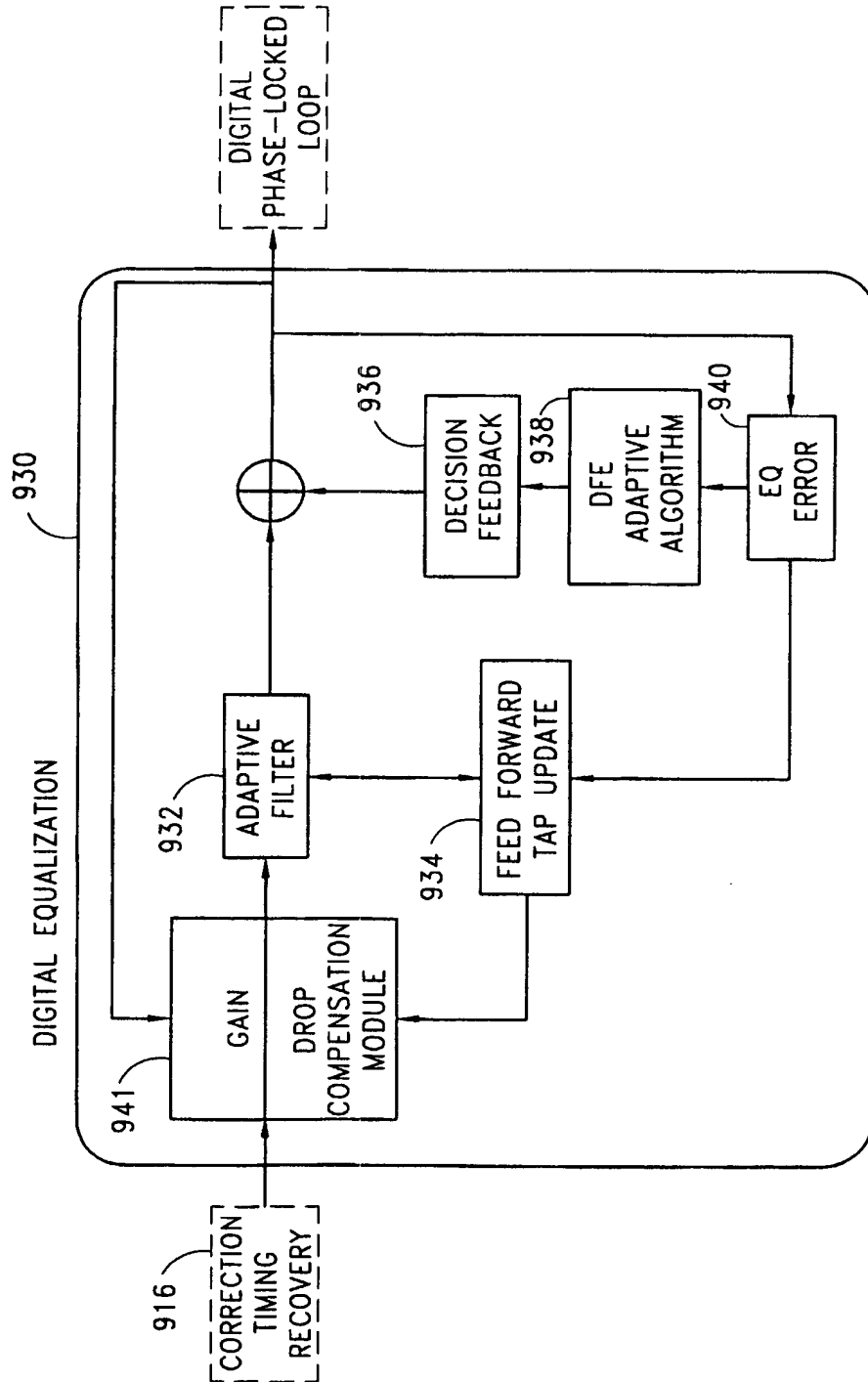
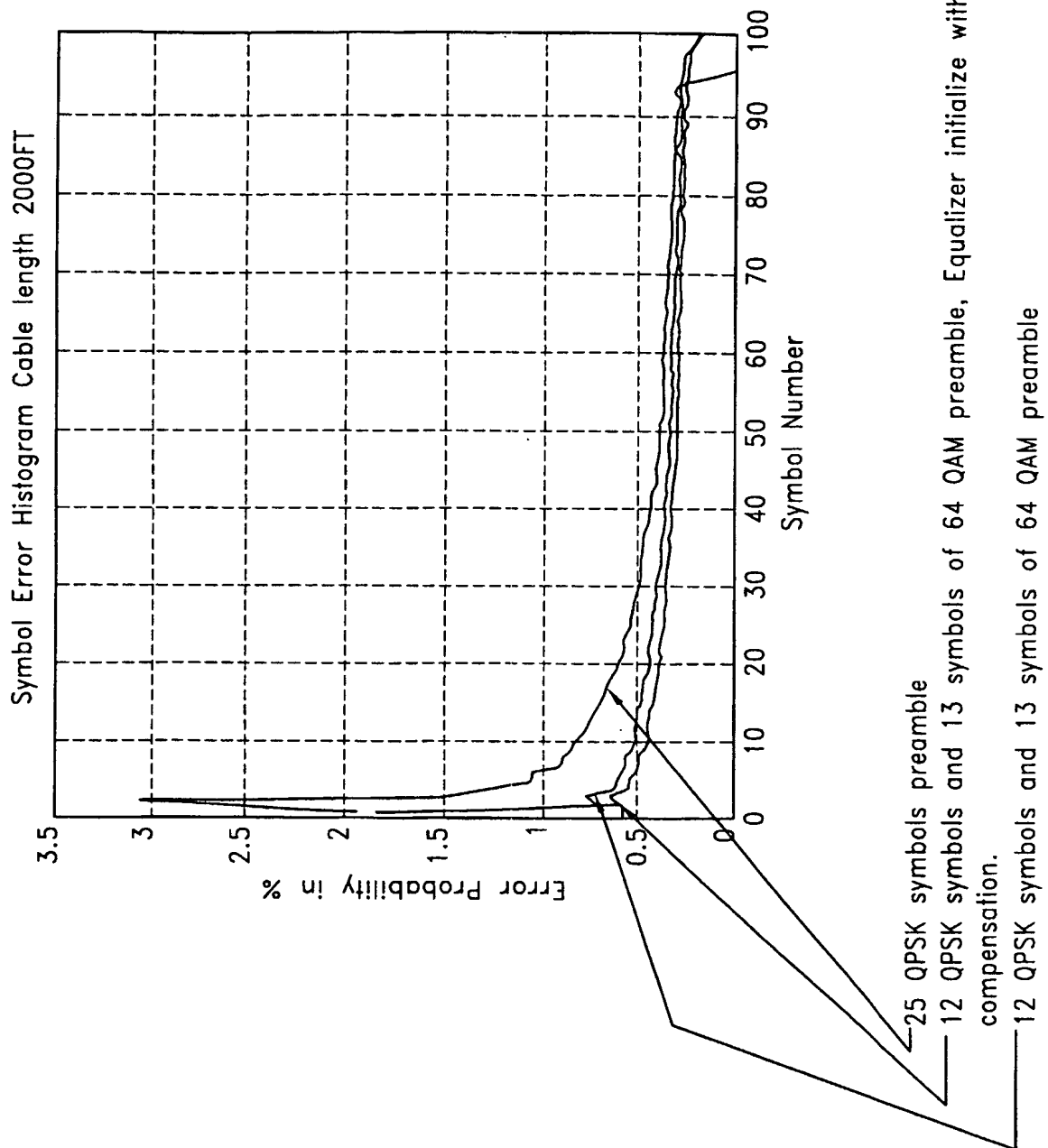


FIG. 5



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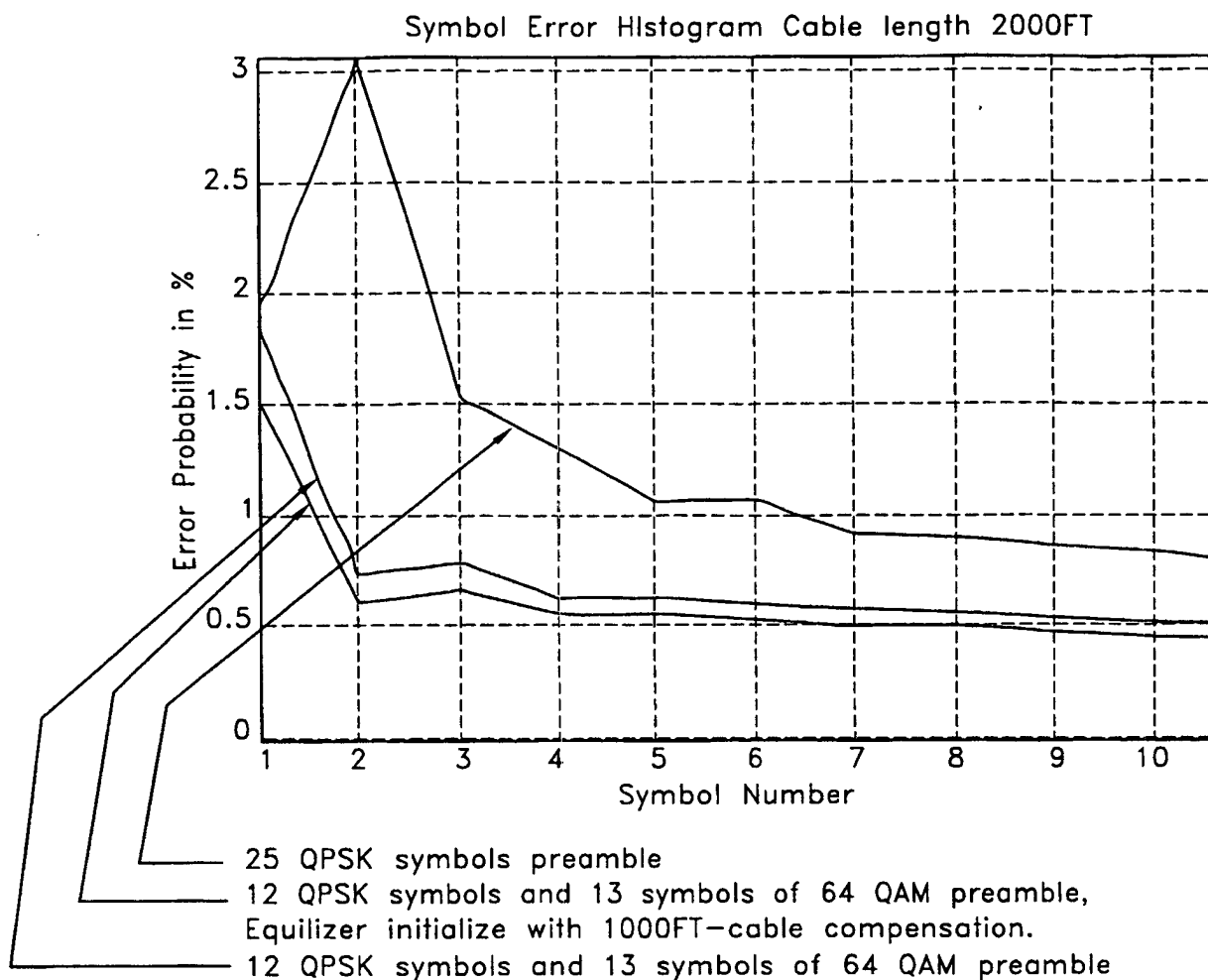
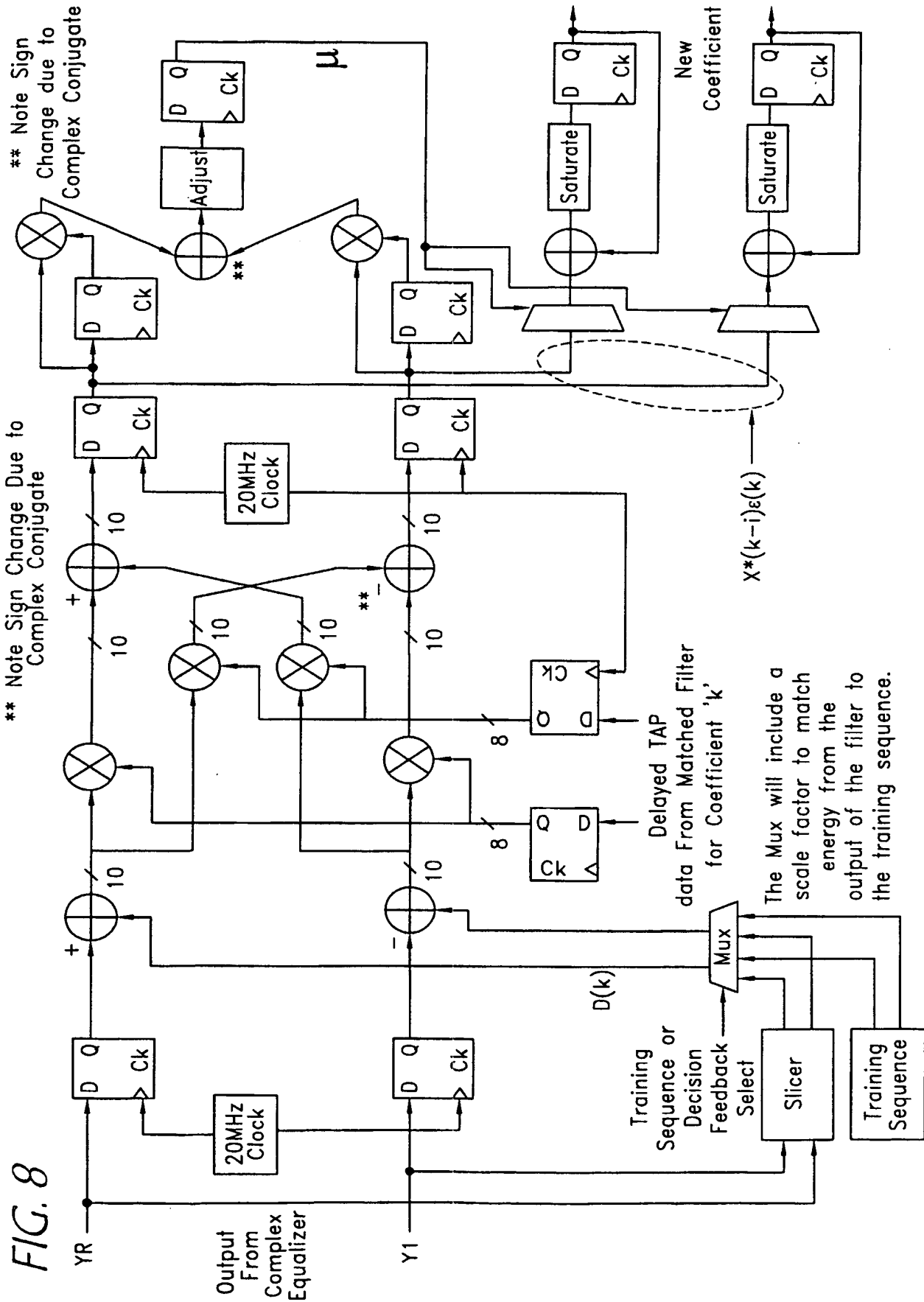


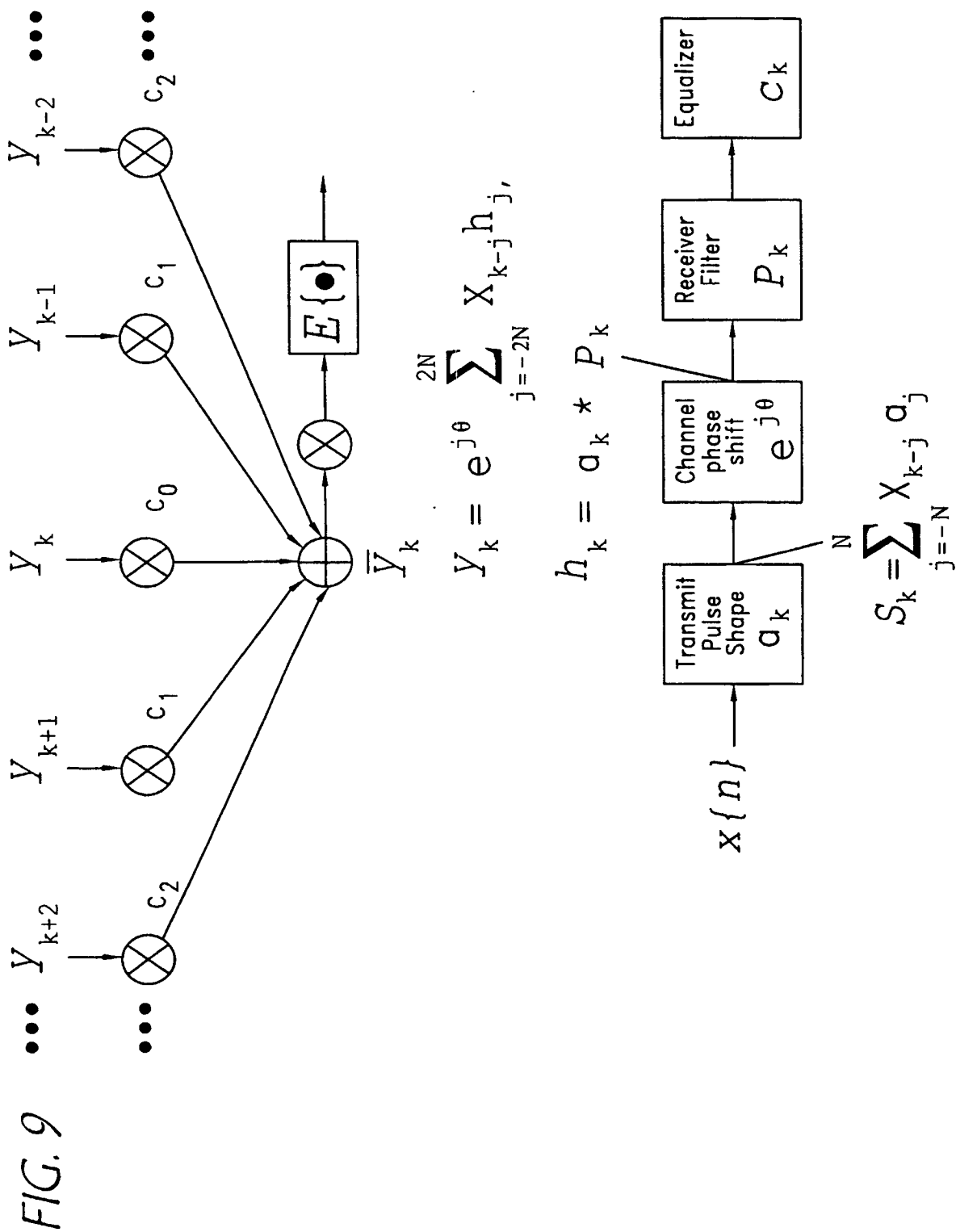
FIG. 6

Cable Length	BER with Preamble Type 1	BER with Preamble Type 2	RS Error Rate with Preamble Type 1	RS Error Rate with Preamble Type 2
1000FT	5.42e-4	4.22e-4	6e-6	No Error over a million bursts.
2000FT	8.88e-4	6.55e-4	1.2e-4	1.6e-5

FIG. 7



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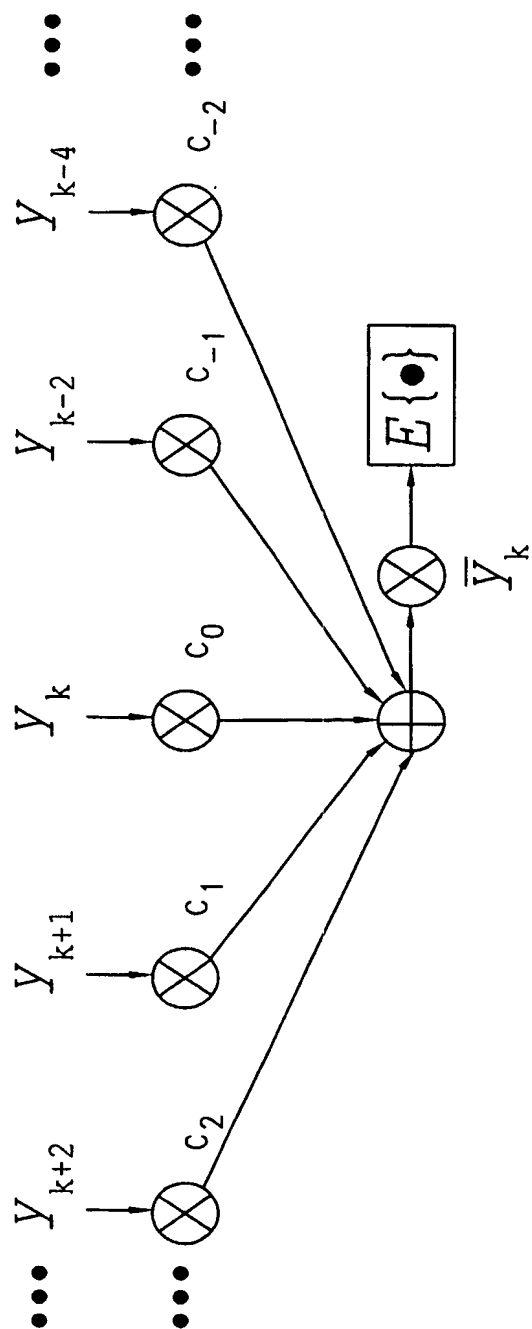
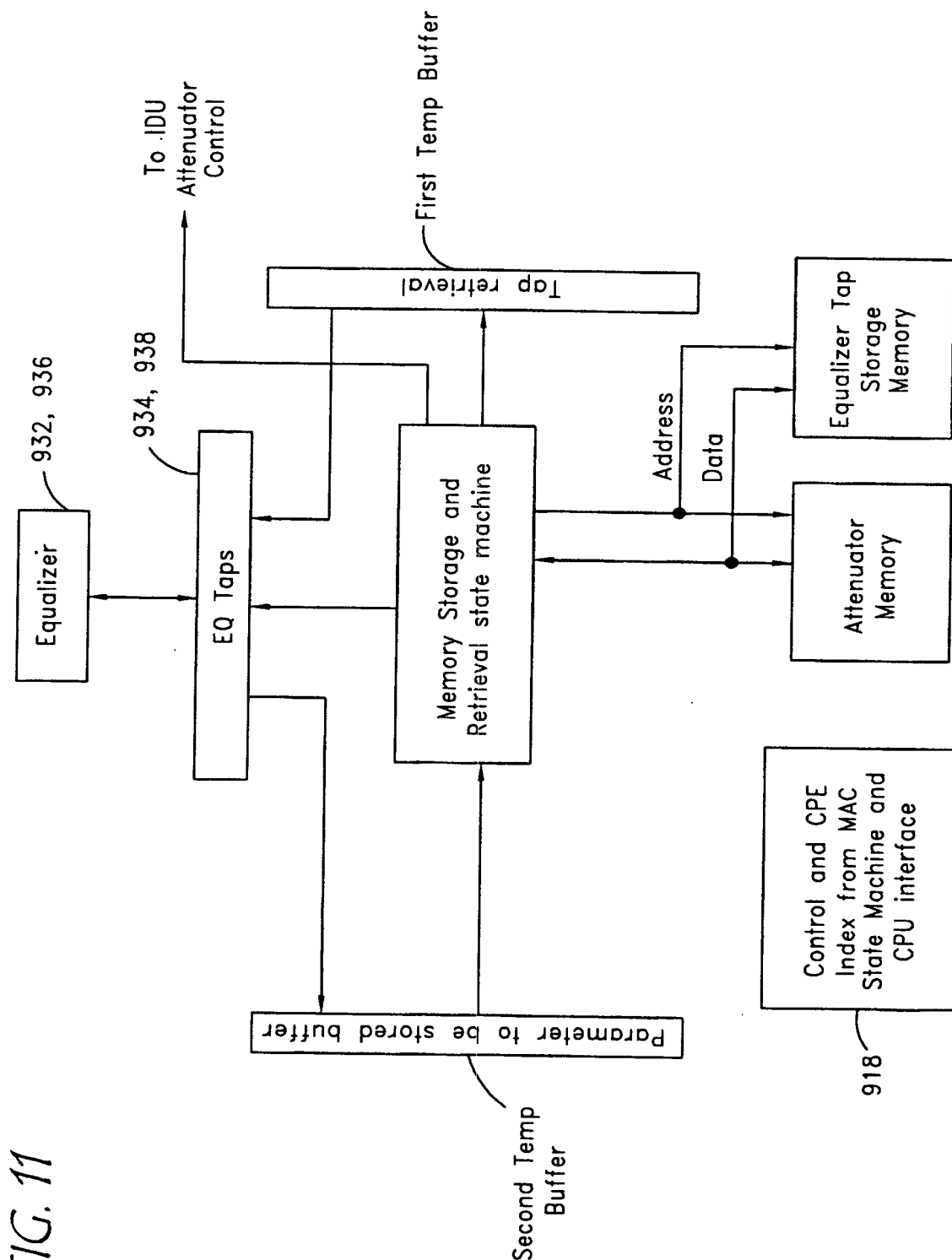


FIG. 10

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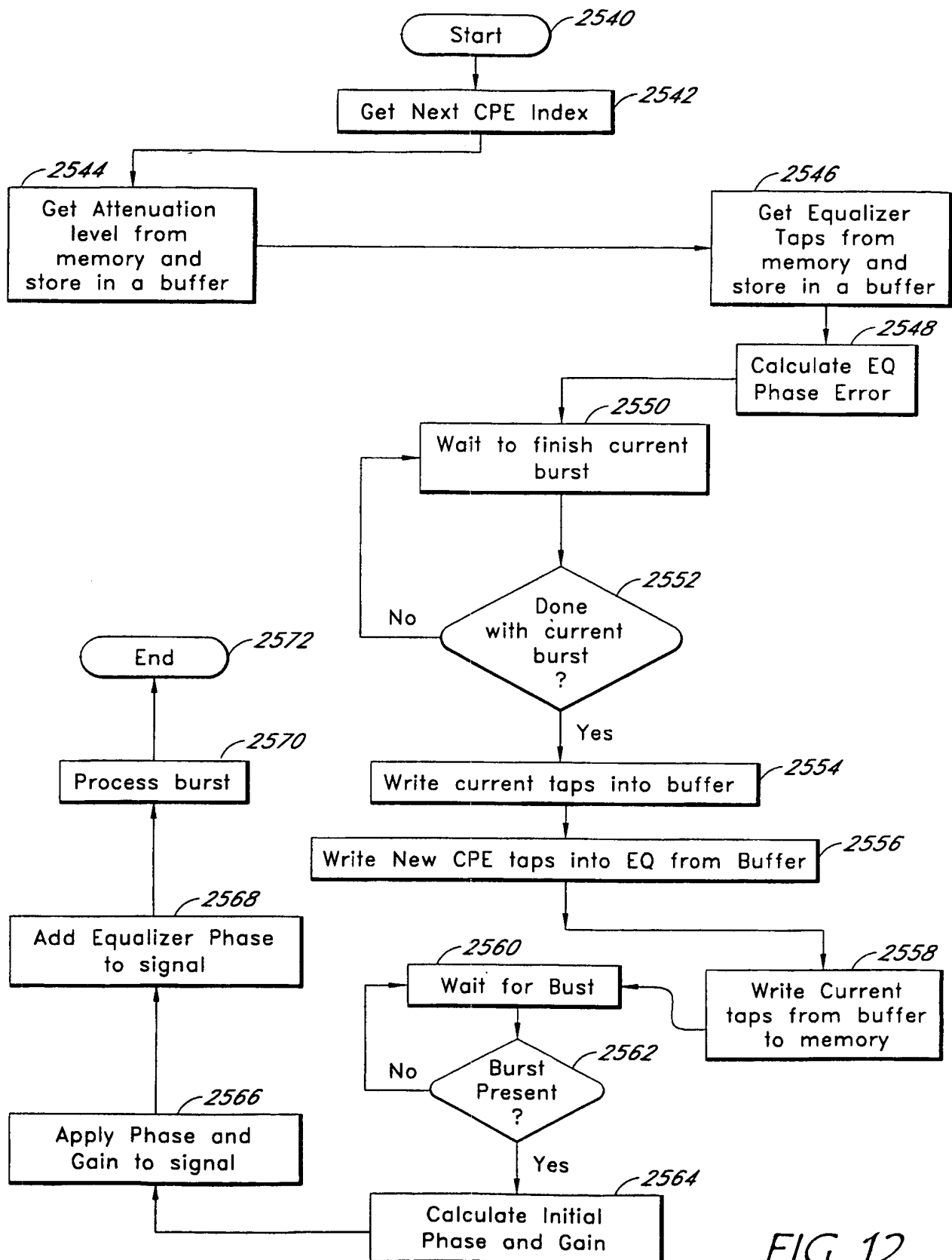
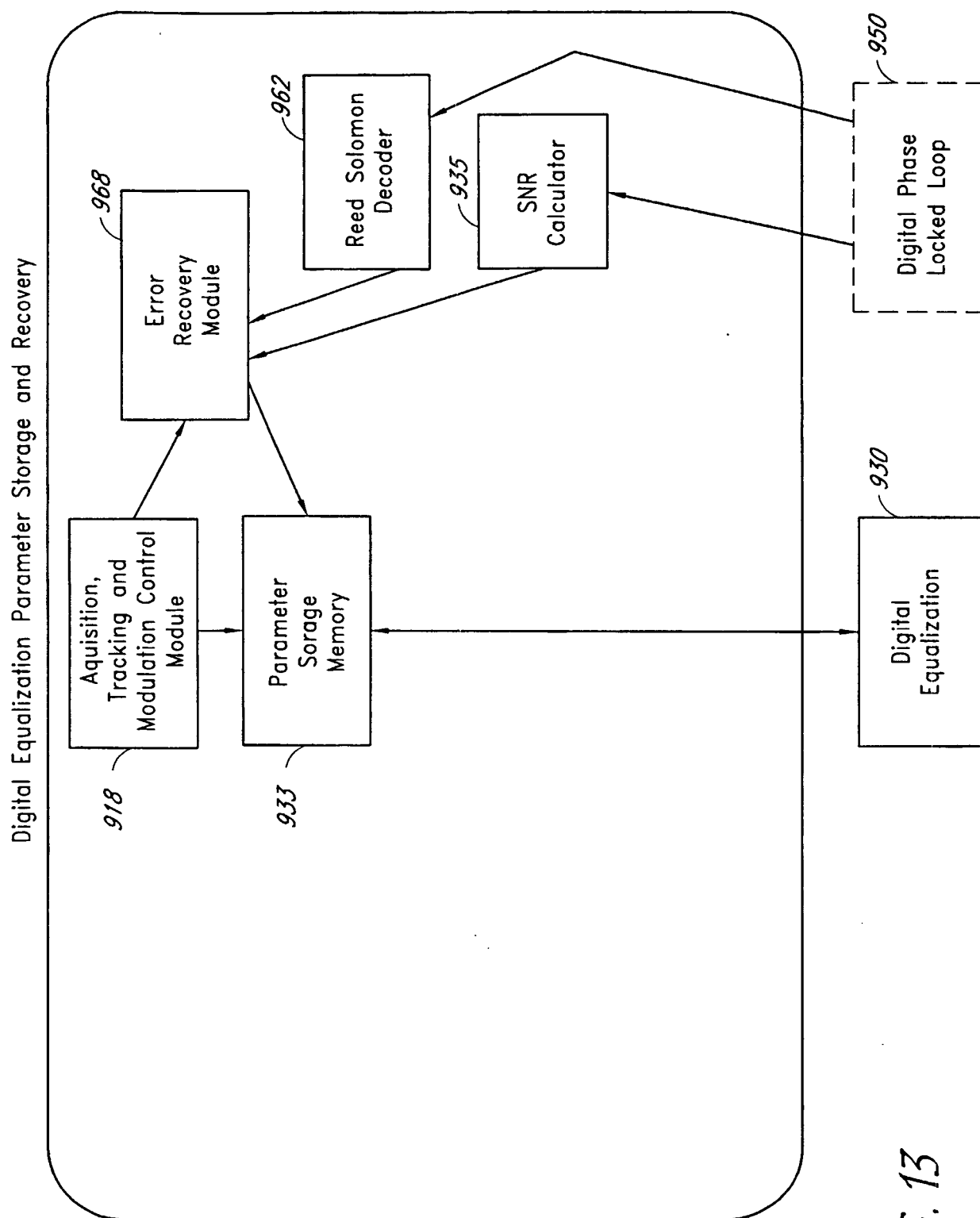
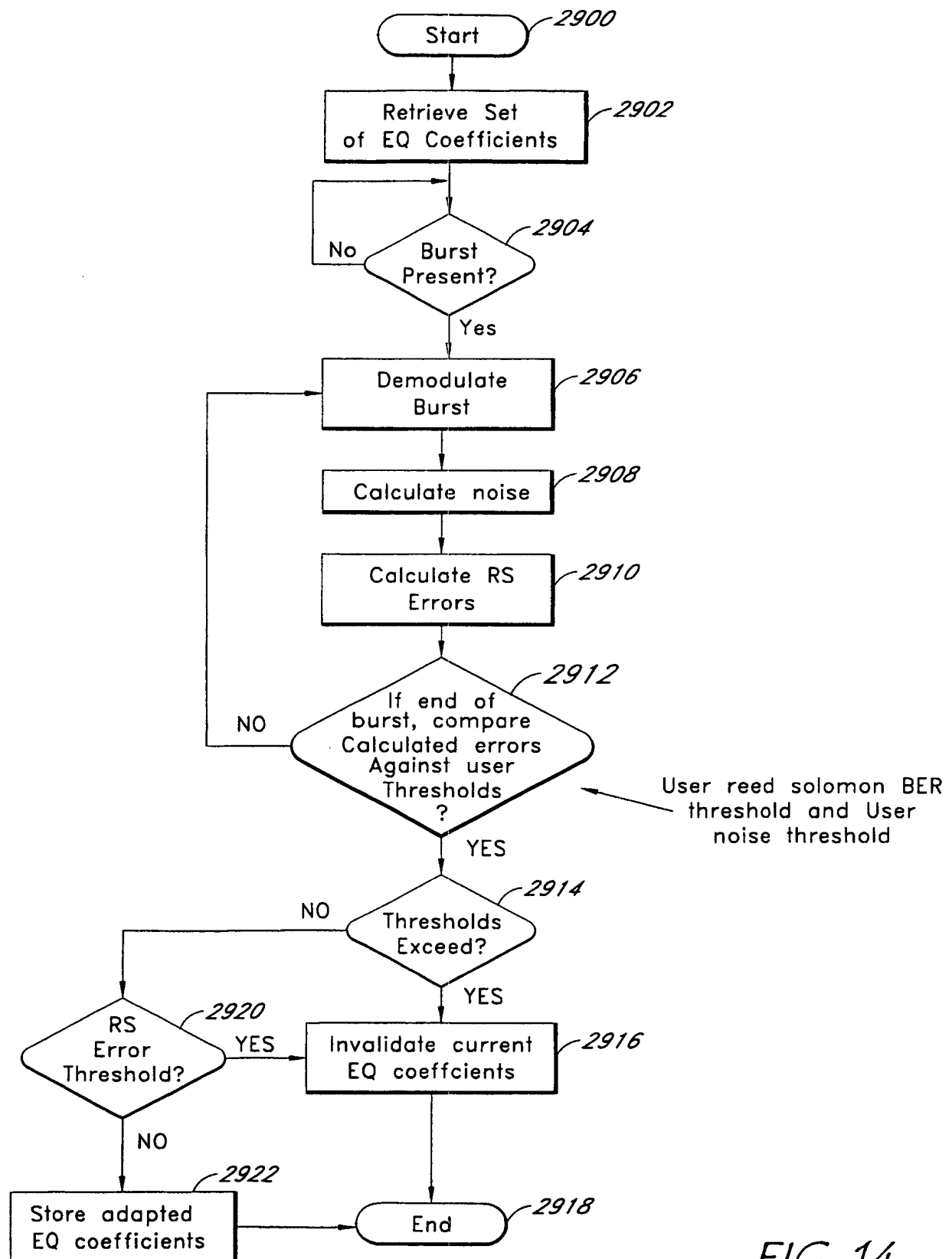


FIG. 12





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FIG. 14

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/06879

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H03H 7/30

US CL : 375/229

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 375/229,222,230,231,232,233,316,324

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A --- Y	US 4,849,989 A (KAMERMAN) 18 July 1989 (18.07.1989), column 1, lines 16-60, column 3 line 33 to column 7 line 59, Figs. 3A, 3B.	12-14, 37, 43-45, 67, 68 ----- 1-11, 15-36, 38-42, 46-52, 61-66
Y	US 4,849,996 A (KAMERMAN) 18 July 1989 (18.07.1989), column 5, lines 18-65, Fig. 4, abstract.	1-11, 15-36, 53-60, 69
Y	US 4,775,988 A (CHEVILLAT et al) 04 October 1988 (04.10.1988), column 3 lines 7-25, Fig. 1, abstract.	6-11, 38-42, 46, 48
Y,P	US 6,263,077 B1 (ZURANSKI et al) 17 July 2001 (17.07.2001), column 8, line 60 to column 13 line 17, Figs. 3-5.	15, 16, 47, 49-52, 65
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Y	US 5,487,181 A (DAILEY et al) 23 January 1996 (23.01.1996), column 11 line 28 to column 14 line 21, Figs. 6-9.	24-31
Y	US 6,016,313 A (FOSTER, JR. et al) 18 January 2000 (18.01.2000), column 6 line 66 to column 7 line 46.	32-35, 61-64



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 June 2002 (19.06.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/06879

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,075,808 A (TSUJIMOTO) 13 June 2000 (13.06.2000), column 6 line 14 to column 8 line 37, Fig. 4.	36, 66
Y	US 6,002,713 A (GOLDSTEIN et al) 14 December 1999 (14.12.1999), column 4 line 45 to column 5 line 25, column 6 lines 18-47, Fig. 4.	47, 60
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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/06879

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST

search terms: modem, remote, equalizer

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